

ForeverGreen Board Retreat
February 8, 2006
Tacoma Public Library, Wheelock Branch

Attended: Ernie Bay (Foothills Trails Coalition), Bryan Bowden (Mt. Rainier National Park), Jayme Gordon (Pierce Conservation District), Kirk Kirkland (Tahoma Audubon), Terry Lee (Pierce County Council), Monty Mahan (Pierce Conservation District), John Olson (Cascade Land Conservancy), Lois Stark (Tacoma Metro Parks), Dave Uberuaga (Mt. Rainier National Park), Jack Wilson (Tacoma Metro Parks)

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon

Open and Introduction: 12:40 p.m.

Welcome:

- Kirk opened the retreat by reviewing the accomplishments made by ForeverGreen in 2005, and outlined some of the goals for 2006, such as solidifying funding and public support.

Session 1:

- Jayme began the first session by walking board members through the master notebook she has compiled. It contains board member information, the mission and vision statements, short term and long term goals, a copy of the annual operating cycle, the organizational schematic, committees, board meeting minutes, and press clippings.
- This notebook is intended to serve as a resource for new board members or others who want to understand the organizational components of ForeverGreen.
- This first session wrapped up with a review and discussion of the Long Term Goals and Objectives list.
 - a) Per both Dave and Ernie, the phrase “go to” in the first goal was considered too strong of wording; ForeverGreen doesn’t want to give the impression of taking over trails in Pierce County. It was suggested that the sentence should emphasize the coordinating and assistance aspects. This goal would now read as follows, “Become the service organization to coordinate and assist in the building of trails in Pierce County.”
 - b) There was discussion about the second long term goal, which calls for secured funding for the ForeverGreen Council. Two sub-points attempted to clarify a distinction between funding for the Executive Director and ForeverGreen Council, and the Trails Assistance Office staff and overhead. Ultimately, it was suggested that funding for the ForeverGreen Council and Executive Director may come from grants/foundations/donations, while a portion of the Pierce Conservation District’s conservation assessment money will cover the operation costs of the Trails Assistance Office. A final decision on these two

sub-points will be decided by committee at a later date, and for now they are to be removed from the list of long term goals.

- c) It was suggested that advocacy for the benefit of trails in our community should be stated as an official goal.
 - d) Lois suggested that another long term goal should be to help maintain and revise a master blueprint (e.g. map) of the trail system “backbone” that the various Pierce County communities buy into and sign off on.
- The list of long term goals will be edited per this discussion and presented to the board for action at the next board meeting.

Session 2:

- The second session included a review of the Board Accountability Guidelines draft.
 - a) There were questions requesting clarification of who is allowed to speak to the media (or public) and when. It was understood that all board members are representatives of ForeverGreen and are encouraged to talk about it. However, if they are asked to discuss something considered controversial or that makes them uncomfortable, they should decline comment.
 - b) The ForeverGreen president is considered the automatic official spokesperson for the Council, although any other person may be appointed from time to time.
 - c) It was also agreed that for the most part, public comments should be limited to resolutions that have been adopted, but not those that are still under discussion. Along the same lines, information or documents will not be released to the public unless they have been officially approved and passed by the board. Non-approved information may be publicly shared if permission is granted by the council and its unofficial, draft status is made clear.
 - d) Finally, all items related to personnel management will be moved to a different document, as it has no direct bearing on board accountability issues. The revised board accountability document is attached.
- Next, Monty discussed the current status of the PCD’s attempt to pass legislation that would allow it to request up to \$10 per parcel when it is time for the conservation assessment to be renewed later this year.
 - a) In summary, there was not enough political support for this proposal during this legislative session. Senator Marilyn Rasmussen, who plays a key role in what happens to this legislation, indicated that there may be enough support for it next year.
 - b) Failure to get this legislation passed this year means that the maximum amount the PCD can request for their assessment is the current limit of \$5. Because funding for the Trails Assistance Office would come from additional assessment money above and beyond the \$5, the scheduled opening day of the TAO may have to be pushed back to 2008, instead of July of 2007.
 - c) There was some discussion about what ForeverGreen could do to help ensure passage of legislation to raise the conservation assessment limit. Board members were encouraged to discuss this matter with their local state representatives.

- The third component of the second session centered on a discussion of the short term goals. “Short term” is defined as the time period from the beginning of 2006 to mid-July 2007.
 - a) Ernie suggested that lobbying for the completion of the trail from Puyallup to Tacoma be made a short term goal priority.
 - b) The list of short term goals, filled out and broken down by subject, is attached. The formal, summarized list of short term goals will be edited per this discussion and presented to the board for action.

Session 3:

- At the beginning of the third session, Kirk reviewed the different committees in ForeverGreen and their various responsibilities. Board members were encouraged to sign up for a committee(s). People then broke up into their respective committees to discuss work plans, arrange meeting times, etc.
- Here is a list of the current committees (asterisk notes committee chair):
 - a) Executive – Kirk*, Barbara, Ernie, Jayme, Bryan
 - b) Strategic Planning – Barbara*, John, Lois, Jayme, Bryan
 - c) Budget & Finance – Ernie*, Monty, Kirk
 - d) Membership & Nominations – Kirk*, Jack, Terry, Barbara
 - e) Outreach & Public Relations – Dave*, John (the current speakers bureau – those that have been giving the ForeverGreen presentations – is Bryan, Kirk, Barbara, Terry, and Ernie)
 - f) Events – Barbara*, Jayme, Bryan

Session 4:

- The Trails Advisory Committee was the fourth and final topic covered at the retreat. After a short overview by Bryan, the group brainstormed a list of potential TAC participants and agenda topics for the first TAC meeting.
- A target date of late March (28th or 30th) was set for the first TAC meeting.
- The TAC committee will meet to refine the invitation list for TAC participants and plan logistics for the TAC kick-off meeting.

Wrap-up:

- John handed out a draft press release that he was going to submit for the latest edition of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.
- Jayme presented a message from John Doan, asking her to help coordinate a meeting between the King and Pierce Co. “valley cities” (i.e. Renton, Kent, Tukwila, Auburn, Algona, Pacific, Sumner, Puyallup, and Fife) for the purpose of discussing a coordinated trail system. She will follow up to offer her assistance and the support of ForeverGreen.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters. Directions will be attached to the agenda.